

## A Fifth Progress Report

THE COMMITTEE on the Role of Medicine in Society was the first of its kind to be established in any medical association, so far as is known. Since then, there have been others. Through the years the composition of the committee has frequently changed, but it has always had among its members some of the most knowledgeable, experienced and thoughtful persons in the California Medical Association. The assignment has been broad indeed, to examine the constant yet changing role of medicine in a changing yet often confused society, and to suggest ways in which the CMA, its component societies and its member physicians might better play their parts.

There have been several progress reports, each addressed to one or more of the many aspects of the complicated relationship of medicine with today's society. These reports have spanned a time of profound change in the capability of medical science and in public attitudes toward the medical profession and health care in general. The reports have tried to identify what was happening, seek out the causes and to suggest how medicine might deal with at least some of the foreseeable consequences in a positive and productive way.

The *Fifth Progress Report* of the Committee on the Role of Medicine in Society will be published in this journal with the approval of the Council. The first of three parts appears in this issue. The report as a whole examines what the Committee believes must be done if the mainstream of medicine is to serve all Californians in terms of medi-

cine's capabilities in relation to the expectations and demands of today's society. The recommendations of the report have received the endorsement of the Council of the CMA. Their implementation could make a carefully considered concept become a reality, to the immense benefit of medicine and society in California.

## The 99th Annual Session

THE PROGRAM for the 99th Annual Session, to be held in San Francisco March 7 to 11, 1970, is by no means a traditional one. Rather it reflects something of the growing and expanding interests and responsibilities of medicine in today's world. The basic scientific substance of the program remains of a high order, and this is as it should be. But a new flavor has been added. There is considerably more emphasis on various aspects of community medicine and problems in the delivery of health care services. There is even some facing up to the enormity of the population problem and its inescapable effects upon health.

A record number of professional specialty societies and public and voluntary health agencies are participating in some way and for the first time students are listed among the full participants. All of this bodes well for an exciting and productive session. The membership should not only congratulate John B. Dillon and the Committee on Scientific Assemblies of the Scientific Board for setting a new standard for the Scientific Program, but should turn out and reap the benefits as well.

## NEW PAGINATION SYSTEM

To solve a technical problem entailed in an agreement by CALIFORNIA MEDICINE to supply a part of its text section as a supplement to be included in *Arizona Medicine*, beginning with this issue we are changing our system of numbering pages. Instead of the cumulative numbering system used heretofore, wherein each issue (after the first) in a six-month volume began with the page number following the last page of the preceding issue, each month now will begin with page 1. Hence, in citing references to articles that appear in CALIFORNIA MEDICINE beginning with January of this year, the month must be stated in addition to the page numbers. For example, an article in this issue: Bernfield MR: Progress in birth defects research (Medical Progress). Calif Med 112:26-42, Feb 1970

The National Library of Medicine, which was consulted, has said that the system will offer no difficulty as to indexing in the Cumulative Index.